REMARKS

ON THE

Wisbich Road BILL,

ADDRESSED to the HONOURABLE the

Speaker of the House of Commons.

By JAMES COLLIER,

A Commissioner in this Act.

Yet in the first Place earnestly recommended to the Inspection of the Representatives in Parliament for the Counties of LEICESTER, HUNTINGDON, BEDFORD, CAMBRIDGE, HERTFORD, NORFOLK, SUFFOLK, SUSSEX, ESSEX, YORK, and LINCOLN, as the Evils pointed out Work to pass greatest Injury to those Counties, LINCOLNSHIRE above Measure.

N. B. TIDD-GOAT is the Pass between the South-East and North-East of ENGLAND and SCOTLAND.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES COLLIER.

From Abingdon's Coffee-House, by Gray's-Inn Gate.

REMARKS

ON THE

Wiſbich Road BILL, &c.

MR. SPEAKER,

SIRE,

GREAT as is the Duty the Homage which is due to this Grand Senate of the Nation from the individual Man, indulge me with Liberty to make known that my Love of this Honourable Houſe is greateſt of all, and whilſt the Paſſions of Reverence and of Love are contending within my Breaſt for Pre-eminence of other towards you, Sir, their mutual Object, my Reaſon calls on both to Order, ſince my Soul and all the Powers within me united at moſt, can but honour you aright. You are,

Sir, before me, the Guardian Angel of our civil and religious Liberties; the Iſle of Ely in particular, have experienced you to be the Check on the contumely of the Proud. The Reſtoration to myſelf and 40,000 Fellow Subjects, Inhabitants of that Iſle; the Reſtoration of our ancient and bleſſed Priviledge—a Jail Delivery twice in the Year, is wholly owing to your gracious Reception of the Grand Jurors Petition, on that Head, in the laſt Seſſions of Parliament. I here preſent from Times, from Chances, Foreman of that Jury cannot refrain from ſeizing on this accidental Acceſs to your Preſence, to acknowledge publickly and thankfully for myſelf: For thoſe whom I then repreſented to acknowledge your Godlike Providence over us.

MR. SPEAKER,

Sir, It has ſo fallen out that this Honourable Houſe has ordained me, amongſt others, to be a Commiſſioner in the Road Bill of *Wiſbich*, which paſſed in the laſt Seſſions of Parliament, and upon opening my Commiſſion I diſcovered ſuch public Injuſtice, that my Heart was my Witneſs, ſuch Wrongs, ſuch open Robberies were not of the Will of this Honourable Houſe; but muſt ariſe from Inadvertence on the Artifices of the Concerters, the Managers of this Bill, an Inadvertence owing to the Minds

Minds of the Senators being drawn to even loſt in the Weightieſt Matters of State.— If more could be wanting the Act itſelf furniſhed it for me, ſince many eſſential Clauſes are repugnant to each other, and ſince the publick Injuries intended to be pointed out by me, are more properly to be termed reſulting Wrongs, than poſitive Inſtitutions of Wrong.

Sir, In the Peruſal of this Act, your Commiſſion to me, I choſe for my Interpreter, under the ambiguous Clauſes, the following Principles, to form my Judgement by.

When this Legiſlative Power paſs a Bill for a Road they intend a Road only.

That as this Honourable Houſe never do give Sanction to a publick Meaſure *to the Injury of one ſingle Man*, much leſs will they bear with a Publick Good to be perverted to a private Emolument.

If theſe Axioms are conſonant to your Wiſdom, I am confident, from Hope, that you will believe, without doubting, that I, your Servant, am drawn to aſk your Attention, from a dutiful and not a preſuming Spirit; from which Hope, no leſs than from conſciouſneſs of Integrity of Purpoſe, I take Courage to point out the following Clauſes.

In p. 34. It is enacted, that a Bank called *Walderſea* Bank, ſhall be conſtantly ſupported and maintained at the ſole Charge

and Expence of the Truſtees of the ſaid Road, out of the Tolls to be collected by virtue of this Act, and the ſaid Tolls to be always liable and applicable to maintain the ſaid Bank, and to take all Breaches that may happen prior to any Charge on the ſame.—How monſtrous this Impoſition on you, Sir, my high Maſter. What leſs is enacted, than that all *England* and *Scotland* * too, ſhall make the Banks on the *Thames* from *Greenwich* to *Graveſend*, and that the Owners of Lands, who, Time immemorial, have maintained the ſame and received the Benefit only, ſhall be exempt from the Burden for the future, and this effected under the Guiſe of a Turnpike Road.

Next in Order to be obſerved, is the Repugnancy this Clauſe is to the preceeding Pages of this Act. To be brief, the Title only declares the Intention of the Legiſlative Power to be an Amendment of a Road, yet under a Breach of Bank, from that Moment the Tolls to every Shilling are to be ingroſſed, perhaps for Years, and the Road, which alone makes the Demand on the Traveller, a mutual Obligation, is to be entirely deſerted.

Unto this let me remark further, that this Clauſe is no leſs vain than ſcandalous, for a

* Twenty-Thouſand Head of *Scoth* Beaſts, at leaſt, go this Road yearly.

moſt

a moſt ſcandalous Clauſe it is; yet I muſt ſay the Corporation of *Bedford Levell* are innocent. To gain your Faith, Sir, no more need be ſaid for the preſent, than that Mr. *Coulſon Fellows*, and Mr. *Soame Jenyns*, are Members of that Body—nay more, greatly aiding to this Clauſe. Why this Clauſe is to be found in this Act, with the Privity of Men of their Honour, their Rank, ſhall be diſcloſed under a proper Head, ſince, in this Place, it lies upon me to evince the Invalidity of this Clauſe.

For this Purpoſe, a Breach falls out, as a Commiſſioner I refuſe *Walderſea* the Tolls, and by means of an Injunction bring the Merits before the Lord Chancellor, and herein, Mr. Speaker, plain Man as I am can diſcover the Principles on which that righteous Judge would ground his Reflections in peruſing this Act, and they are theſe. In Honour of the Legiſlature, the Chancellor would be moſt diligent to ſearch out the primary End in View of that Legiſlature, which found, every Clauſe which ſeemingly claſhed with that primary View, his Lordſhip would bring down to a Subordination to the firſt Principle. And every Clauſe, diametrically oppoſite to the firſt Principle, working to paſs a Self-contradiction, neceſſarily terminates in an Impoſſibility to fulfil both, the Conſequence whereof is to Neceſſity

ceſſity again, that a Chancellor is at his own Liberty to give Sanction to which of the two his Wiſdom ſeeth beſt, ſince both cannot be.

Now then to the Application. The primary End in View of the Legiſlature, is unto me, plain Man, moſt palpably a Road: The Clauſe relative to *Walderſea*, is an abſolute Deſertion of the Road.—Mr. Speaker, under this glaring Contradiction of Meaſures, which of the Two the Chancellor would enforce, the wayfaring Man could not be at a Loſs to determine, eſpecially when a moſt weighty Reflection lying yet behind, is ſuggeſted to the Mind. This Clauſe proving a moſt generous Diſpoſal of the Revenue of the Tolls towards recovering a Breach in *Walderſea* Bank, ſtarts to my Mind a croſs Queſtion; Whoſe is the Revenue of the Tolls, I would know?—The Conduct of the Cardinal of *Wiſbich* and his Attorney General, would tempt me to Judge it to be theirs, ſince Parſon *Burrows* and his Attorney *Wenſley*, made this generous Conceſſion to the Corporation, but my Duty to you, Sir, prevailing over their Temptations, makes me bold to aſſert the Revenue of the Tolls to be yours only: That a Treaſure which is gathered up by virtue of your Authority, is alone *at the diſpoſal*

diſpoſal of your Wiſdom *.—Theſe Premiſes granted, this ingenious Bargain does ultimately turn out a Contract with the Wind, ſimilar to a Conveyance of Sir *John Cuſt*'s Domains, by me, to the Door-Keeper of this Houſe, equally valid, rather ſpurious becauſe the one Thing is needful to make ſuch Deed worth owning, namely, Sir *John Cuſt*'s Conſent, whoſe is the Lordſhip. Mr. Speaker, having thus exploded this Clauſe, for your Comfort, Sir, I muſt inform you, that the next Clauſe to be pointed out need only to be named, ſince the ſame being built on the like baſe and ſandy Foundation, the Argument on the former, is equally applicable to this latter, namely, *Wiſbich* Hundred. The only Part, Sir, of this Act yet remaining to be noticed, is the Compoſition for *Wiſbich* and adjacent Villages; and herein my Duty to you, Sir, who are watchful for the Publick, preſſes me to inform you, that they are moſt injurious to the Publick, of which the Committee upon this Bill were ſo jealous, that they paſſed them with the greateſt Reluctance.

And now, Mr. Speaker, bear with me whilſt I account for this Clauſe, wherein the Corporation of *Belford Levell* appear ſo much

* My Duty will lead me to requeſt of the Speaker, in due Time, to ſhew the Subjects the Tolls are his.

much intereſted, and of Conſequence ſo much meriting your dreadful Cenſures.

Sir, not to be tedious to you; our Regiſter Mr. *Cole*, ſettled a Correſpondence with *Wiſbich* ſo ſoon as this Act was ſet on Foot, and by ſuch Warineſs came early to the Knowledge of the ſcandalous Partialities which were concerting at Home, to Favour one another, and Mr. *Cole* laying the iniquitous Schemes before the Corporation, the Judgment of our able Members was, that we muſt be found crafty with them crafty and the good Effects in our View were what is come to paſs, namely, that we might help ſo to overload the Carriage of this Family of the Wrongheads, as to break it down at once.

To ſmother their own ſiniſter Purpoſes, they have yielded to ſo many more, as have taken them in their own Craftineſs, for they have worked out their *own Confuſion*, * that I live to ſee verified.

God

* *Burrough* and *Wenſley*, to favour *Wisbich* Hundred, and the Compoſitions for the peculiar Villages, aſſumed to themſelves to burthen the Tolls, as to diſpoſe or give up the Tolls, wilfully concealing their Preſumption from all the Subſcribers (an intereſted Favourite or two except) that when the Meeting to put the Act in Force was, and the Act laid open to the Subſcribers (a Mutiny enſued inſtead of Buſineſs, as well might, and nothing done) of Conſequence a flat Country of 100,000 Acres at leaſt deſerted, for *Walderſea* Bank from being veſted in the Commiſſioners, was neceſſarily

God ſcattereth the Proud and the Crafty by means of the Imaginations of their own Hearts.

Sir, whilſt this Bill was huddling together in the Country, I left them to themſelves, from my Jealouſies that they would ſow ſo much of Tares amongſt the Wheat, that, in the End, I ſhould laugh them to ſcorn, for what though theſe Things be ſo; what though Pride to Arrogance, and vain Glory united with much Craftineſs were the Motives to Action, in the Cardinal of

ceſſarily without a Guardian, at the ſame Time known of all to be ſo ruinous that it could not withſtand a Flood Six Hours, and whether the Vigilance and Activity of Meſſieurs *Waddington* and *Gardiner*, to ſave the Inhabitants of ſo great a Tract of Land, will ſucceed at laſt, is very uncertain. All that could be done in ſo Unſeaſonable a time of Year, as *October* and *November*, and next to none of the Subſcription Money paid, they have done towards ſo ſalutary an End; but if their honeſt Endeavours to ſave a Country from Ruin ſhould fail, both Managers and Subſcribers muſt expect a Petition from the land Owners and their Tenants to Parliament, to call them to Account, for wilfully neglecting to Repair at leaſt, the *Walderſea* Bank throughout the Summer, as were the *South Sea* Directors, of which, from my good will to them all, I gave Advice by a Letter to *Wenſley*, but in vain. Inter alia I adviſed them that the Snbſcription was unto the Parliament, and the only Merits on which the Legiſlature veſted them with Power to demand the Travellers Money, and therefore if they receded from their Payments, my Opinion was, ſuch Conduct was a moſt heinous and would prove a moſt dangerous Contempt of Parliament, even to End in their Ruin, and if they choſe to Anſwer for themſelves at the Bar of the Houſe of Commons, I did not, and therefore ſhould pay my Subſcription Money, which I have done, 50l. of 100l. ſubſcribed, which is the Call made by the acting Commiſſioners.

Wiſbich and his Attorney-General; what though the groſſeſt Injuries to Society neceſſarily reſulting from the Actions of Men of baſe Principles are effected.

You, Sir, are ſtronger than the ſtubborn will of Man.—You can make the Conſcience of the Crafty do its perfect Work of Reproach, before the great Day of Account, you can confound their Devices.

Seeing then that the great God makes the Wrath of Man to fulfil his purpoſes, yet tempting no Man, and when his grand Views are anſwered, he reſtrains the wicked Heart. Even ſo do you, dread Sir. On you the Image of that God above Men in common, by virtue of that Throne, I call, I invoke, even ſo do you, dread Sir.

I your Servant, am come expreſs to you my arch-Angel, to inform you our Harveſt is ripe; but that Enemies to the well-being of Man, Enemies to Truth, have ſown much Tares amongſt the Wheat. On your Zeal for the Proſperity of your Countrymen, I call—as rely—Condeſcend to gather in this our Harveſt, ſince you only, can ſeparate the Tare from the Wheat, being endued with Wiſdom to diſcern Truth, with Virtue to adore Truth, and with Power to enforce Truth.

For this deſirable End, if conſonant to your Wiſdom, Sir, command the Accounts

of

of the Corporation for theſe 20 Years paſt, to be brought before *a Committee Clerk*, * likewiſe the Accounts of the *Walderſea* Land Owners, together with thoſe of *Wiſbich* Hundred; and that Clerk laying before this Houſe their diſtinct Sums total, of thoſe 40 Years Expence, do you, Sir, command the reſpective Parties, to pay Annually, to the Commiſſioners of the Tolls, upon an Average grounded on thoſe 40 Years.—Further, diſburden the Tolls from the Expence of taking any Breaches that may fall out, caſting that Burden back on the *Shoulders of thoſe* † who have borne the ſame Time immemorial, ſince this Honourable Houſe cannot intend to Tax the Publick for private Emolument.

Laſtly, blaſt theſe Artifices, relievant of *Wiſbich* Hundred, together with theſe colluſive Compoſitions, for the ſake of their Rottenneſs. They are a Stench to Noſtrils

* Mr. *White*, if Mr. Speaker pleaſes.

† As a Witneſs, who bears Teſtimony to Truths, which terminates in his own Damage, is always eſteemed ſtrongeſt Evidence. It muſt be revealed, that I myſelf pay 50l. per Annum to the Corporation Treaſury, which is like the Land-Tax, ſometimes higher than other Times; and although I look for being thought of ſome to ſpeak againſt Myſelf, I thank God, that hitherto in Life, I have never thought Man counteracted himſelf, by ſpeaking Truth and acting Truth; but let my Principles be whatever they may, I will avouch, my Pride is never to aſk my Neighbours to take off me the Burden of my Property, until I do in the ſame Breath offer them the Profits too.

of honeſt Senſations. Bind up theſe Tares and caſt them into Fire, ſince nothing leſs can purify our Air from them; nay, caſt them down to Hell, ſince none leſs Flames can brand them as they deſerve.

Theſe are the Riſe of all the Evils couched under this Act.—From them ariſe this ſecond Vexation to the great Senate of the Nation; and what is worſt of all, theſe of themſelves Evidence a Will premeditating to eſtabliſh eternal Wrongs; as this Baſeneſs of Purpoſe, pampered by a pre-ſuppoſal in the Minds of this *falſe Prophet* * and his

* No Phraſe more common, although none more ſhameful, than this as follows, Damn the Clergy, ſo great is my Impatience to enter my Proteſt againſt ſuch Inſolence of Speech, that before as above all Things, I muſt cry out,

God bleſs the Clergy.

This becoming Paſſion of my Soul gratified, I feel Myſelf at Liberty to impeach this prevailing Licentiouſneſs of Speech.

The Fulneſs of Shame, this Phraſe expoſes the Heart, from which it proceeds, to be impeached of, are to be found under theſe two Heads.

Conſummate Ignorance.
Conſummate Arrogance.

It has been proclaimed from Heaven itſelf, that Men were not all *Iſraelities* who were of *Iſrael*, which Phraſe, by the Way imports, nay, Evidences of itſelf,

That there were *Iſraelites*.

The Inference then deducible from this Declaration of the Deity, bearing Reference to a People or Nation, ought equally

his Attorney, that they are equal to impoſe on the Wiſdom of this Senate, inſomuch, as to

equally to be applied, by Man, to the reſpective Orders or Claſſes of Men, of any given People or Nation. Be it admitted by me, then the moſt, the Enemies to Churchmen can ſupport their Rancour or Malice, in aſſerting that there are many very wicked Churchmen; this Propoſition granted, Amounts to no more than this:

They are not all Clergymen who are of the Clergy.—Still Clergy there are,—as *Iſraelites* there were.—The Man then who Damns the Clergy, methinks makes more Haſte than good Speed, when he preſſes forward to proclaim himſelf ſo ignorant, as to condemn the Righteous with the Wicked, and ſo arrogant as in himſelf alone, to aſſume ſpeaking reproachfully of any given Order or Claſs of Men (the Clergy more eſpecially).

To anſwer ſuch Fool according to his Folly.

Who art thou, O Man! who diſcover not all Orders or Claſſes of Men have a Scummer, or Refuſe of themſelves, to be caſt off from them, and diſcovering, yet ſeeſt not that thou proclaimeſt and proveſt thyſelf to be the Scum, the Refuſe of thine own Order or Claſs, when thou, one Man, revileſt Numbers indiſcriminately.

Not to Anſwer ſuch Fool according to his Folly.

Thou Hypocrite, firſt pull out the Beam out of thine own Eye, before thou affecteſt to ſee a Mote in thy Neighbour's Eye, for how canſt thou ſee clearly to pull out the Mote, which ſhall be granted to be in thy Neighbour's Eye, whilſt a Beam is in thine own Eye.

My Duty to the Houſe of Commons, and that only, has forced me on to Notice one *Burrows*, who is of the Order of the Church, and in reflecting on his Ways I have done, what in me lies, to preſent to the Minds of all who read my Writing, what prevails in my own Mind, a due and becoming Veneration for ſo valuable an Order of Men as are the Clergy,

to make the Righteouſneſs of this Houſe to ſanctify their Craftineſs, their Knaveries.

Damn this Prieſtcraft, therefore, Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons, on you I call, from a loyal Heart, of my Soul's Jealouſy, for the Honour of your fœdoral Head, my high Maſter, I invoke you to a Man.

Clergy, by ſtyling the ſaid *Burrows* to be of the Clergy, but no Clergyman; and this Diſtinction I am led into by that bleſſed, though much *depiſed* Book, the Bible, wherein the ſame God who has inſtructed me, he will bleſs the Man who gives but a Cup of cold Water to a Prophet, in the Name of a Prophet, has equally warned me to beware of falſe Prophets.

To be bold of Speech for once.

Methinks the beſt I am tempted to ſay, the only Method for the various Orders of Men to uphold their own Order Honourable, is to be the firſt inſtead of the laſt to give up an unworthy Member.

A. B. { Is of the Clergy, but no Clergyman.
Is of the Army, but no Soldier.
Is of the Navy, but no Man of War.
Is of the Law, but no Lawyer.
For the Phyſician, is a Quack Doctor.
Is of the Gentry, but no Gentleman.
Is of the Exchange, but of no Credit.

Thus ſeparating the Man from the Vocation, will preſerve on our Minds that Veneration towards the various Orders of Men as is truly due unto them.

Thus ſeparating the Man from the Vocation, might awaken Mankind and lead them to diſcern, that Manners, conſonant to Profeſſion, are indiſpenſable, to found a good Eſteem amongſt Men in this our Age, wherein Ignorance, and its conſequent, Superſtition, is routed.

Damn

Damn theſe Tares bound up together, to none leſs Doom than Hell, away with them, away.

Mr. Speaker, of your Favour, Sir, give ear unto me for a Minute, on the Head of the compounding Clauſe.

As this Honourable Houſe will not, inſomuch that, I ought rather to ſay, cannot puniſh the Innocent on Account of the Guilty, I conclude a Compoſition in due Meaſure will be ordained, becauſe my Heart bears me Witneſs it ought, and therefore I ſhall think it my Duty to furniſh you, Sir, in due Time, with ſuch Hints, as my local Knowledge qualifies me to do, that this Houſe may be qualified, conſonant to their Jealouſy of Honour, to reſolve, within themſelves, the Compoſitions, as that Power is too great Dignity for the private Subject to be inveſted with,—I am concluded.

Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,

The Incident of this Act, has drawn up my Mind, in my retired State, to much Reflection on Turnpikes in general, and I do gather Courage to aſk Leave to reveal my Thoughts to this auguſt Aſſembly, as I have previouſly accounted to myſelf on ſound Reaſoning, for any Opening that may be left for Improvement on thoſe Meaſures, where-

wherein both the Wiſdom and Virtue of this Houſe have been engaged.

In Summ; Turnpike Bills are Vexations, Teazers, Objects tumultuous, and of Moment, too mean for the Gods of the Earth to devote themſelves to Policies moſt ſuited to Fenn Squires, that if the Subjects, ſeeking the Aid of Parliament, are void of Modeſty, Honeſty, and ſuch dutiful Hearts towards this Houſe, as is indiſpenſible in the private Subject, they may impoſe on the Wiſdom of this Houſe by local Knowledge.

That ſordid Minds * do pervert the righteous Intentions of this Houſe, I know to be

* *Ely* Turnpike has ſet up a Gate, of which, I may ſay, entraps all Travellers from the North-Eaſt to *Ely*, who go not on the Road, beſides which, I may ſay they made a ſecond Application to Parliament, and ſecretly to the Country, won on the Committee to enlarge their Tolls, although their free Gifts amount to 1900l. and upwards, and I think their Diſtance is Sixteen Miles, and pay of two Gates Three Pence in all, beſides a Bridge. This may be Right, yet methinks ought to be looked into.

I have learnt that the Commiſſioners of *Somerſham* Turnpike very genteely frank themſelves, or paſs under Price at leaſt.

Lynn Turnpike, a Stage Fourteen or Sixteen Miles at moſt, take, at Three Gates, One Penny Halfpenny, beſides a Bridge for a ſingle Horſe, which ſeems extortionable, although it may not be ſo, and therefore Merits to be ſearched into.

To mention one more as it affects the Iſle. The Turnpike from *Huntington* to *Cambridge*, intraps all Paſſengers from the North-Eaſt to *Cambridge*, as they go not in the

be bold, I feel with Indignation to Wrath, from my Soul's Loyalty, from my zeal for the Virtue of this State, under which it is a Bleſſing to live.

Sirs, accept my good Will, being my reaſonable Service.—Accept my good Will, remembering the Widow's Mite.

Gentlemen, the Ideas of the Houſe of Commons, from Habit, ſeem to be theſe; good Roads are a profitable as well as a pleaſant Good, and therefore let Countenance be given to all Adventurers on the Returns of Tolls, and Adventure being ſtamped on the Mind, the Parliaments have reſted herein without looking further.

The Ideas of Subſcribers to Road Bills in the general, have grown to Preſumption, from their inſight by Time, of the Parliament's benevolent and generous Motives of Action, from which has reſulted, that both Parliament and People are expoſed to be duped by theſe Adventurers without Hazard, ſince I muſt obſerve, that Subſcribers to Road Bills are become Mortgagees in Poſſeſſion, without Account, of whom I am bold to aſſert that they are in the Exerciſe of this

the Road. Under all this, I do not ſuſpect this Diviſion to be worſe than other Parts of the Kingdom; but laſt Week did *Godmanchester* Turnpike pick my Pocket of a Shilling, and many more of us harmleſs Fenn Men, by *Huntingdon*.

Truſt guilty of much abuſe of Power at leaſt, how much of Waſte I cannot aſcertain with Proof, but wiſh I could, and not to wiſh in Vain; I would propoſe that this Honourable Houſe do appoint their Speaker, as far as in them lies, to be Auditor and Comptroller of all the Tolls throughout the Land.

My next Object, is to make this Taſk both practicable and eaſy, to ſo great an Officer in our State.

The firſt Means are to make the Commiſſioners of one Turnpike a Check on others, as it is every Diviſion's Intereſt to keep their Neighbours in due Bounds, the Diviſions are ſo dependant on each other:

For an Example, let me begin a Home. The *Ely* Turnpike. The *Somerſham* Turnpike to St. *Ives*. The *Huntingdon* Turnpike to *Somerſham*. This ingenious and generous Turnpike of *Wiſbich*, as the *Lynn* Turnpike, let be obliged once in the Year (in the Month of *March*) to bring together their reſpective Accounts, for reciprocal Examination upon Oath, by Six Commiſſioners, to be nominated by the Speaker out of each of their reſpective Bodies of Commiſſioners, together with their reſpective Clerks and Toll Gatherers, to be examined upon Oath.

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The Place of Rendezvous to be appointed as near the Centre of the extream Diſtances as can be pointed out.

That the Commiſſioners be allowed Ten Shillings and Six-Pence a Man for One or Two Days at moſt, and that they paſs Toll free to and from the Place.

That the Commiſſioners be Sworn to make Report of all Grievances in their Eſteem ſuch, practiſed in their contrary Diviſions, and be impowered to adminiſter an Oath. Either Diviſion to other, *pro hac vice.*

That theſe Accounts be ſigned by all the Commiſſioners preſent, and reduced under as few Heads as poſſible, to be ſuccinct at leaſt.

The Sum total borrowed,—its Intereſt, the Number of Gates, at how many Paid, and what Paid; together with the Diſtances; the Sum total of Toll Gatherers Salaries; the Sum total of Repairations of Houſes, Gates, and Fences; the Sum total of Dayſmen occaſionally employed; the Sum total of ſubſtantial Gravelling; Number of Loads, and the Meaſure of Way gravelled. The total of Meaſure of Way gravelled by Statute Work, as we term it. The total Sums received at each Gate. Theſe to be returned once in the Year; each Diviſion and diſtinct Turnpike, paying a

Fee of Five Guineas at the leaſt, to their Auditor, their Comptroller, for his Trouble.

That a Commiſſioner in one Turnpike, provided he be of the ſix elected by the Speaker, be ordained a Commiſſioner in all the Turnpikes throughout his County, ſo far as to notice Grievances and to ſatisfie any doubtings.

That the Speaker be inveſted with Power to controul the Toll Gates, where placed of purpoſe to play the Knave, under Sanction of the State, and the State knowing not of the Matter, a Practice moſt prevalent at preſent.

That the Speaker * have Power to ſtrike out *Commiſſioners.*

That

* There are no greater Eye Servants upon the Earth than are Turnpike Commiſſioners, no Men who ſooner turn their Backs upon their Maſters, by uſing the Authority of their Commiſſion, to indulge their own wilful Pride or Malice againſt their Neighbours, or to gratify their own mean Craftineſs. *Wenſley* has already refuſed Fifty Commiſſioners the Subſcription Paper, and other Papers requiſite to the Commiſſioners to fulfil the State's Will. Three or Four Yeomen and a petty Shopkeeper at *March*, refuſed me being preſent at the putting out the Buildings, although I was the only one who had any Money advanced on the Tolls; this Scheme may be ſeen through, and was calculated to make a Jobb for ſome favourite Workmen, as the Subſcribers Money is to pay all Charges, and not a Shilling of their own, which leads me to aſk this unlucky Queſtion, Who ſuffers from all this? why the Majeſty of the State, and the Rights of the Subjects General. A few of this kind of Gentry ſent to Newgate for the Contempt they have done to the State's Commiſſion, might do a little good, and the Speaker inveſted

That the Speaker have Power to lower the Tolls, though not to raiſe the ſame above what is eſtabliſhed by Legiſlature, as the former is in Relief of the Subject and not to burden them; and the only Means I can think of to relieve the State at the ſame Time, from the Vexation of ſuch mean Objects as Turnpike Bills are.

In Relief of the State yet further, may the Speaker have Power (but this Power muſt be conjunctive with the Speaker of the Upper Houſe) to renew the Terms of old Acts when ſpent, a Twenty-One Years Term, at moſt, provided ſuch Renewal is granted on the ſame Baſis as the original Act ſtands, otherwiſe not; the original Act having been eſtabliſhed by the Wiſdom of the whole State. The utmoſt this Power extends to is reviving the Body, the Letter which is Dead before the Spirit, the Intent of the State is Dead too, which Spirit and Intent of State never dies before the Creditors on Tolls are Paid their Principal; and this Propoſition, the Practice of the State, every Seſſions, evinces, by keeping ſuch Acts alive, whilſt the Creditors on Tolls remain

vеſted with Power to ſtrike out Commiſſioners for their Miſdemeanors, might bring them to their Senſes; and methinks the leaſt Glimmerings of Reaſon could not fail to point out to Commiſſioners that their bounden Duty is to do their Maſter's Will, and not their own.

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Creditors ſtill. This may be done ſo eaſy as by both the Speakers indorſing on the Back of the original Record, their Fiat for a further Term of Twenty-One Years, yet this Renewal is not to be granted without paying the Fees of both Houſes of Parliament. My only View in this is to relieve the State from theſe vexatious Delays to their real and momentous Buſineſs. Theſe Bills are become ſo numerous that they are oppreſſive to the State, although to none elſe, for ſurely fine Roads through a Kingdom are a great Beauty to a Country, as well as a great Benefit to the Commercial Intereſt. And may they multiply Yearly, my good and great Maſter Sir *John Cuſt*, is the hearty Wiſh of the Fenn Squire, unknown to you as he is.

But to return; that the Speaker, after inſpecting the Accounts, do Print the ſame in the whole of them with his Remarks and Reforms, and ſend them to every Member of the upper and lower Houſe of Parliament. Likewiſe narrowed to every diſtinct County, to be ſent to the elected Six, under every Act. This is of View in me to create a further Check upon the Whole, but am doubtful whether this is not more Trouble than Uſe.

From theſe Meaſures I look for theſe deſirable Ends. That the Virtue of our State

State will be guarded againſt the Whoredoms of crafty and rapacious minded Men for the Future, ſince no Act is abſolute and irrevocable in the fraudulent Parts of the ſame, or in the infamous Practices under Colour thereof.

That the Subjects will pay the Tolls with a willing and chearful Heart for the Future, from knowing that this Tax is moſt accurately examined into, and of Conſequence moſt honourably founded.

Finally, above all Things as I conclude, all ſenſible Men muſt Love the Speaker of their Houſe of Commons, from my Conſciouſneſs that all Men have courging Cauſes ſo to do, my Hopes are, that the Hearts of my Countrymen will exult to know that the Stipend of the feidoral Head of all the Commonweal Part of this Kingdom is augmented, ſince all ingenuous Hearts have of long Time conſented that the Stipend of this great Officer of our State, is at preſent very inadequate to his high Rank amongſt Men, as likewiſe to the *Burdens* which preſs on this high Appointment. If this Joy admits of any Inhancement by me, it muſt be raiſed from remarking that this Augmenttation will be grounded upon Means (as they bear Relation to the Subjects General) moſt honourable, I am in Duty bound to ſay upon Terms indiſpenſable before Heaven, ſince

fince of God it is ordained, that the Labourer be confeſſed of Man to be worthy of his Hire.

Muzzle not the Ox that treads the Mow, ſays a God.

N. B. The Speaker is under an honorary Obligation to keep an open Table for the Time the Parliament ſits, for none leſs Perſonages than the Repreſentatives in Parliament of all the

NATION.

FINIS.